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Medical Officer of Health's Report
for the year 1939.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit my report for 1939. By an instruction from the Minister of Health in July, 1940, the Annual Reports are to be confined to essential and urgent matters and the usual statistics are to be kept until after the war. This report is to be considered as an interim one.

SECTION A - Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

There were 208 deaths corrected by transfer, 165 live births, and 1 stillbirth.

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year was 10.

SECTION B - General provision of Health Services for the Area.

No change

SECTION C - This section and the 2 following ones incorporate the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(1) Water Supply

The Minister of Health, on the 11th March, formally opened the newly constructed works of the South East Cornwall Water Board. St. Germans Rural District Council and Looe Urban District Council are entitled to take 400,000 gallons each per day. Every parish in this district, save Millbrook, is linked to the scheme and during the past year, new distribution mains have been constructed.

The Callington Water Company has abandoned the supply from Castlewich, which owing to the proximity of contamination to the source, was always open to suspicion. There are still places in this locality supplied from the Company's old sources, but your Sanitary Inspector intends to watch these, and periodic samples will be taken for analysis.

There are other sources at Calstock, Downderry, Millbrook, and Rame giving a dry weather yield of 160,000 gallons, in use, so that in the district, there is sufficient to supply a combined population of 22,400 with 25 gallons per head, which population is about 38% in excess of the present one.

(2) Sewerage and Drainage

At Metherell, a short length of new pipe sewer, with a small sewage disposal scheme, has been constructed. This has remedied an objectionable nuisance.

By the construction of new sewerage and a temporary disposal system for part of Albaston, and the new school at Drakewalls, the commencement of a com-

prehensive scheme for St. Ann's Chapel and Drakewalls may be anticipated after the war. It is imperative, however, that an extension be made of the present system for the drainage of premises in Cemetery Road, where the conditions are extremely unsatisfactory and nuisances at the outfalls are most prejudicial to health. At. Callington the land has been purchased for a sewage scheme, but the proposed work must necessarily be postponed.

SECTION D

There is nothing of special import.

SECTION E

The usual work was carried out in the matter of inspections and supervision of food supplies.

SECTION F - , Infectious Diseases

There were a number of cases of Scarlet Fever, 22 in all, of a mild type. 10 of these occurred in the Gunnislake district.

5 cases of Diphtheria were reported, 3 of these being in the Millbrook district.

In addition there were 16 cases of Pneumonia, 4 of Erysipelas, 4 of Puerperal Pyrexia and 4 of Ophthalmia Neonatorium.

Measles and Whooping Cough became notifiable in October, mainly as a measure connected with the evacuation of children, and 5 cases were reported.

During the year there was a number of cases of German Measles, which is not notifiable.

10 cases of Scarlet Fever and 3 of Diphtheria were treated at the Isolation Hospital at Swilly.

There were 8 cases of Tuberculosis of the lung reported, and 2 of other forms of Tuberculosis. 4 deaths occurred of lung disease and 2 of other forms of Tuberculosis.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation of the work of your Sanitary Inspector, and to thank him and his staff for their ready help.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H.G. ROBINSON M.B., Ch.B.